



US Army Corps
of Engineers®

ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION BULLETIN

No. 2017-21

Issuing Office: CECW-CE

Issued: 01 Nov 17

Expires: 01 Nov 19

SUBJECT: Establishment of the Facilities Explosive Safety Mandatory Center of Expertise

CATEGORY: Information

1. **References:**

- a. Engineer Regulation (ER) 1110-1-8158, Corps-Wide Centers of Expertise Program
- b. ER 1110-1-12, Quality Management

2. **Purpose.** This ECB announces the establishment of the Facilities Explosive Safety (FES) Mandatory Center of Expertise (MCX). The FES MCX will be located in the Engineering Directorate at the Huntsville Engineering Support Center in Huntsville, Al.

3. **Background.** Projects involving the design, construction, or modification of facilities that manufacture, store, handle, maintain, develop, demilitarize, test, or dispose of ammunition or explosives (AE), and facilities within the Explosives Safety Quantity Distances (ESQD) of AE facilities require the involvement of subject matter experts in explosives safety. Technologies in facilities explosive safety, handling and storage continue to evolve. HQUSACE recognized the need for a mandatory technical center of expertise for facility explosive safety to ensure technical adequacy and safety of our designs and facilities. Upon HQUSACE request IAW the process defined by Ref (a), the USACE Management Action Group (UMAG) approved the established of a facilities explosive safety MCX on 01 August 2017.

4. **Mission.** The FES MCX will provide expert explosives safety technical support services to all HQUSACE elements, divisions, districts, laboratories, field operations, Army, and other DOD and non-DOD federal agencies. The FES MCX will also provide technical support to foreign, state, and local governments and authorities when coordinated with, and authorized by HQUSACE, through an Interagency and International Services (IIS) Agreement.

5. **Roles and Responsibilities.** CECW-EC is the HQ proponent organization for the FES MCX. CECW-EC will effectively coordinate with the CEHNC MCX program manager to provide overall technical monitoring of the MCX. CECW-EC will ensure detailed information related to the FES MCX, including the forthcoming Engineering Regulation, are published on the Technical Excellence Network (TEN) website. USACE Major Support Commands (MSCs) will ensure appropriate use of the MCX to obtain quality control in accordance with ER 1110-1-12 and to monitor the usage of the MCX in the design and construction activities of their districts in accordance with ER 1110-1-8158.

6. **Mandatory Requirements.** In the interim, until the FES MCX ER is published, the following services are considered mandatory and all USACE entities will request the appropriate FES MCX support. These services are on a reimbursable basis, except for item a. which will be centrally funded. Note that involvement of the MCX at the beginning of any FES related project

is crucial for successful execution. The FES MCX will provide guidance related to explosives safety quantity distance footprint, impact to facilities and infrastructure within the ESQD footprint and surrounding area, and the need for protective construction to mitigate explosion effects. More specifically, the FES MCX will:

a. Review the explosives safety aspects of programming document DD Form 1391 during the USACE review and certification stage for all projects involving the design, construction, or modification of facilities that manufacture, store, handle, maintain, develop, demilitarize, test, or dispose of ammunition or explosives, and facilities within the explosives safety quantity distances of AE facilities.

b. Review projects related to explosives safety for projects involving the design, construction, or modification of facilities that manufacture, store, handle, maintain, develop, demilitarize, test, or dispose of ammunition or explosives, and facilities within the explosives safety quantity distances of AE facilities.

c. Participate in planning and design, procurement and construction stages of projects to ensure that explosives safety requirements are included.

d. Review design submittals to ensure that adequate details are provided accurately to facilitate review and approval from the Military Service-Level Safety Centers and the Department of Defense Explosive Safety Board (DDESB).

e. Support the district and resident engineer offices by providing construction support by reviewing submittals related to explosives safety components of the project, such as lightning protection systems, grounding and bonding systems, fire protection, heating and air systems, and protective construction (hardened) structures used to mitigate explosion effects.

f. Review project's explosives safety site plan.

g. Review all variances from explosives safety requirements and the associated explosives safety risk assessments.

7. **Update.** All new requirements will be included in the next appropriate policy document update.

8. **Points of Contact.** HQUSACE point of contact for this ECB is Richard Ludwitzke, CECW-EC, (202) 761-1580. Technical point of contact for this ECB is Jeffery Coulston, CEHNC-EDC-S, (256) 895-1651.

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